

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1502 – SB 1724

February 29, 2016

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires a hearing if a foster parent's petition for visitation is opposed by the custodial parent or parents when the child has been removed from the foster parent's home due to no fault of their own. Requires the court to determine the presence of a danger of substantial harm to the child when considering a petition for foster parent visitation.

Defines "foster parent" as any person with whom a child in the care, custody, or guardianship of the department was placed for temporary or long-term care. Establishes criteria for the court to consider when determining the best interest of the child for purposes of foster parent visitation.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures -- \$361,200

Increase Federal Expenditures -- \$172,100

Assumptions:

- Based on information provided by the Department of Children's Services, 1,435 children have been with a foster parent for over one year; it is estimated that 10 percent of those children will reunify with their custodial parent, resulting in 144 ($1,435 \times 0.10$) foster parents requesting visitation. This will require the Department to continue to work with these families to provide services to prevent reentry into the Department's care.
- A 10 percent increase will result in the hiring of the following eight additional staff positions: five Case Managers, one Team Leader, one Attorney to handle litigation issues, and one Child Protective Services (CPS) Investigation and Assessment Case Manager to handle additional CPS referrals.
- The recurring increase in expenditures associated with the additional staff positions is estimated to be \$533,281 (\$294,200 salaries + \$119,081 benefits + \$120,000 additional costs).
- These expenditures will be funded through a combination of DCS state funds (52.0%), TennCare funds (45.0%), and Title IV-E federal funds (3.0%).
- The recurring increase in expenditures of \$533,281 will be compiled of \$361,214 state and \$172,067 federal as follows:
 - \$277,306 in DCS state funds ($\$533,281 \times 0.52$)
 - \$83,908 in TennCare state funds [$(\$533,281 \times 0.45) \times 0.34965$]
 - \$156,069 in TennCare federal funds [$(\$533,281 \times 0.45) \times 0.65035$]

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- \$15,998 in Title IV-E federal funds ($\$533,281 \times 0.03$).
- Any increase in caseloads for state or local courts can be accommodated within existing judicial resources without an increased appropriation or reduced reversion.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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